



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

11 April 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Melvin R. Laird
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT : Net Assessment

1. Attached is the study entitled Net Assessment of North Vietnamese and South Vietnamese Military Forces that you asked the Agency to prepare for you. Per your explicit request, this study was done entirely by the Agency itself and was not coordinated with any other component of the intelligence community or the U.S. Government.

2. We greatly appreciate the helpful data provided through the good offices of General Pursley and Mr. McManaway, but caution nonetheless that our data base and experience factors on matters relating to the RVNAF are considerably less extensive than is the case for matters relating to North Vietnam's armed forces. Despite our best efforts, therefore, the attached study may show an unintentional and unwitting imbalance occasioned by the terms of your request which kept us from consulting our colleagues in DIA and the military services whose knowledge of the RVNAF's inner workings is considerably more extensive than ours.

3. Copies of this letter, with the study attached, are being given to Mr. Rush and General Pursley. I am also giving a copy of the finished study to General Bennett and will discuss additional distribution with you during our 11 April discussion.

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Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

SC 07038/72, Copy No. 1